(c) if so, the number of companies which foiled to file their annual returns since three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to compel the companies .to file their returns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on me Table of the House.

Financial Assistance to Essar Group

1553. SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR:
SHRI P.N. SF/A:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Essar Group of compames has more than Rs. 400 crore as outstanding loan payable to IDBI, ICICI and GIC which have not been cleared DO for;

(b) whether it is also a fact that additional financial assistance has been provided as bail-outs to this Group; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken to recover the dues from this Group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) IDBI, ICICI & GIC have taken exposure in the Essar Group. However, in accordance with the practice and usages customary amongst the banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing the financial institutions as also the provisions of the Public Financial Institutions (obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983 the information in respect of the constituents of the Public Financial Institutions cannot be divulged.

Widening of Tax Base

1554. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of further widening the tax base to cut fiscal deficit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?